

## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200 Dallas, TX 75202-2733

December 6, 2013

Secretary Gary Sherrer Office of the Secretary of Environment 3800 North Classen Boulevard Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Dear Secretary Sherrer:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the addition of nine new sites to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) under Final Rule #57. Two of these sites, Wilcox Oil Company, Creek County, Oklahoma and Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine, Laguna Pueblo, New Mexico are located in Region 6.

The EPA also announced the proposal of nine new sites to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) under Proposed Rule #59. One of these sites, Macmillan Ring Free Oil, Norphlet, Arkansas is located in Region 6.

I have attached copies of public information and reference materials related to these Rules. The Rules will be printed in the <u>Federal Register</u> (FR) on or about December 12, 2013. The NPL list will be available on the EPA's Superfund web site at (<a href="http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/">http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/</a>). The Superfund web site will be updated no sooner than December 10, 2013, with all of the supporting documentation for this rule. The FR notice can be found on the Government Printing Office web site (<a href="https://www.access.gpo.gov">www.access.gpo.gov</a>).

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact me at (214) 665-6701, or have your staff call Brenda Nixon Cook, Region 6 NPL Coordinator, at (214) 665-7436.

Sincerely yours,

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Director

Superfund Division

Enclosures Courtesy Copy (via email) Steve Thompson, ODEQ Scott Thompson, ODEQ Rita R. Kottke, Ph.D., ODEQ Amy Brittain. ODEQ



# **NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)**

\*\*\*Final Site\*\*\*

December 2013

# WILCOX OIL COMPANY | Creek County, Oklahoma | Creek County

#### Site Location:

Wilcox Oil Company (Wilcox) includes the inactive and abandoned Lorraine and Wilcox oil refineries located in Creek County, Oklahoma. The site is located within commuting distance to Tulsa.

#### △ Site History:

The site consists of the former Lorraine/Wilcox Refinery located in Creek County, Oklahoma. The property was utilized by two different refineries with overlapping boundaries from 1915 to 1965. Wilcox operated as a crude oil refinery from the 1920s until 1963. A skimming and cracking plant was constructed in 1929. The main components of the plant consisted of a skimming plant, cracking unit and re-distillation battery with vapor recovery system and treatment equipment. Wilcox expanded when it acquired the Lorraine Refinery in 1937, which was located adjacent to Wilcox. The two refineries comprise 125 acres. The site includes remnants of former oil refining operations and tank farms. Currently there are six residents living on-site, homes are located in areas of former waste operations.

#### ■ Site Contamination/Contaminants:

Wilcox site sources include contaminated soil, cooling ponds and numerous tank bottoms. Hazardous substances include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and metals, primarily lead.

# **## Potential Impacts on Surrounding Community/Environment:**

Currently, a church and six residents are located within the former refinery boundaries, half of which utilize ground water from private wells. Intermittent streams drain the source areas and flow to Sand Creek. A release of copper, lead and PAHs has been documented to the wetlands of Sand Creek. Sand Creek flows to Little Deep Fork Creek from which fish are caught for human consumption.

# A Response Activities (to date):

No formal response activities have been conducted. Multiple sampling events have been conducted by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality at the request of the EPA Region 6. Preliminary Assessment (PA), Site Investigation (SI) and Expanded Site Investigation (ESI) have been performed at both facilities.

# ■ Need for NPL Listing:

The state of Oklahoma referred the site to the EPA because the potentially responsible party would not voluntarily address site contamination. Other federal and state cleanup programs were evaluated, but are not viable at this time. The EPA received a letter of support for placing this site on the NPL from the state of Oklahoma.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See 56 FR 5600, February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at <a href="http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp">http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp</a> or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.



# NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)

\*\*\*Proposed Site\*\*\*

December 2013

# MACMILLAN RING FREE OIL | Norphlet, Arkansas

Union County

#### (\$) Site Location:

MacMillan Ring Free Oil is an abandoned refinery located in Norphlet, Union County, Arkansas. The 100 acre facility is bordered by a residential subdivision and the Norphlet Public School on the west, Hayes Creek on the north and east, and Massey Creek and bottomlands associated with the creek to the southwest.

# △ Site History:

MacMillan Ring-Free Oil Refinery operated as a crude oil refinery and manufacturer of lubrication oil and asphalt products from 1929 to 1987. The property was sold in 1989 to Nor-Ark Industrial Corp who used the on-site storage tanks for asphalt products until March of 1991 when the company filed for bankruptcy. The facility was refurbished by Norphlet Chemical as a chemical manufacturing plant in early 2004 to produce tetrafluoroethane (Freon 134A) an automotive refrigerant. The plant never operated as intended and failed to produce the product. In 2007 the facility was abandoned and has remained vacant. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) placed the site on the State Priority List under the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission's Regulation No. 30 due to the potential for soil, surface water and/or ground water contamination and the need to remediate the site to protective levels. The ADEQ conducted a Comprehensive Site Assessment which developed remedial alternatives and, in November 2011, referred the site to the EPA for NPL consideration.

#### ■ Site Contamination/Contaminants:

Surface and subsurface soil, ground water and surface water/sediment are contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) and metals.

## \*\* Potential Impacts on Surrounding Community/Environment:

Surface water and ground water is contaminated. Sampling conducted by the EPA and ADEO indicate that there may be as much as a foot of petroleum product underlying the facility. Currently there are several active seeps of waste discharging into surface drainage pathways and wetland areas north of the site. Without remediation of the site, additional releases to ground water, surface water and soil will continue to occur.

## A Response Activities (to date):

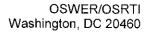
Extensive assessment and removal actions were completed at MacMillan in the early 1990s addressing free liquids in the impoundments and active releases to surface water. Wastes were treated on-site and treated materials were used to backfill the impoundments. In April 2009, a removal action by the EPA of tanks containing anhydrous hydrofluoric acid (AHF) and AHF mixtures was conducted; these tanks were associated with Norphlet Chemical operations.

# **■** Need for NPL Listing:

The site was referred to the EPA in 2011 from the state of Arkansas. Without listing, the site contamination will continue to pose a risk to human health and the environment. Other federal and state cleanup programs were evaluated, but are not viable at this time. The EPA received a letter of support for placing this site to the NPL from the state.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See 56 FR 5600, February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]

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# NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)

\*\*\* Final Site \*\*\*

November 2013

# JACKPILE-PAGUATE URANIUM MINE | Laguna Pueblo, New Mexico

Cibola County

#### (\$) Site Location:

The Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine site is located on Laguna Pueblo about 40 miles west of Albuquerque in Paguate, Cibola County, New Mexico. The facility is located in an area of canyons and arroyos to the east of the village of Paguate. The property on which the former uranium mine is located is approximately 7,868 acres in size. Approximately 2,656 acres of this property were disturbed and contained three open pits, 32 waste dumps and 33 proto-ore stockpiles.

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The mine was operated by Anaconda Minerals Company, a division of Atlantic Richfield Company. Mining operations were conducted from 1953 through March 1982. During the 29 years of mining, approximately 400 million tons of rocks were moved within the mine area and approximately 25 million tons of uranium ore were transported via the Santa Fe Railroad from the mine to Anaconda's Bluewater Mill, approximately 40 miles west of the site.

#### ■ Site Contamination/Contaminants:

Primary site contaminants include uranium (U-234, U-235 and U-238) chromium, cobalt, manganese, vanadium and zinc. There are high concentrations of U-238 in surface water immediately downstream of the mine.

# \*\* Potential Impacts on Surrounding Community/Environment:

Surface waters of the Rio Paguate and in the Paguate Reservoir contain elevated levels of Isotopic Uranium. Fishing has been documented at the reservoir and down stream in the Rio San Jose. The levels of Isotopic Uranium could have an impact on Traditional/Cultural and Ceremonial uses of surface water bodies below the convergence of the Rio Paguate.

## Response Activities (to date):

The Pueblo of Laguna, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Anaconda/ARCO entered into an agreement for site cleanup in 1986. To date reclamation has been primarily the covering of mine waste and contouring. In June 1995 the Jackpile Reclamation Project was officially completed. In September 2007, a Record of Decision (ROD) Compliance Assessment for Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine was performed to determine if the post-reclamation had met the requirements of the Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (ROD). This report concluded that reclamation of the mine was still not complete.

## Need for NPL Listing:

Releases from the mine are still occurring despite the reclamation of the surficial mine areas. The Pueblo of Laguna asked the EPA to consider the site for the NPL. The EPA has explored other options in lieu of listing with the Department of Interior for site cleanup; however no other alternate mechanism to address these releases has been identified. The EPA received a letter of support for placing this site on the NPL from the tribe.

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